

Attorney Docket No.: NEYM 20.501 (100806-00216)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Inventor : Tomoyuki Sakaguchi**  
**Title : ENCODING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ENCODING  
DIGITAL IMAGE IMPROVED BY REQUANTIZATION OF  
PREDETERMINED SUBBIT PLANE**  
**Serial No. : 10/616,068**  
**Confirmation No. : 9947**  
**Filed : 07/09/2003**  
**Examiner : Lam T. Mai**  
**Group Art Unit : 2819**

Mail Stop: Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

Sir:

The referenced application was allowed on, April 5, 2004. The issue fee due on July 6, 2004 is being paid concurrently herewith.

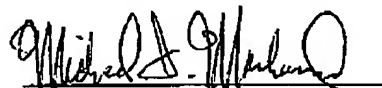
Applicant hereby acknowledges the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance. Applicant respectfully notes that there may be additional reasons for allowance that have not been specifically cited, and which may apply to various of the allowed claims, in addition to or instead of the cited reasons. Applicant respectfully suggests that notwithstanding the Examiner's

Reasons for Allowance, it is believed that each of the allowed claims is patentable in its own right and/or for other reasons raised during the prosecution and/or explained in the specification of this application.

To the extent that any statements regarding patentability of any claims allowed by the Examiner made by the Applicant or the Examiner in any document filed in this application are inconsistent with or not included in the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, they are incorporated by reference herein.


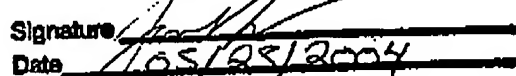
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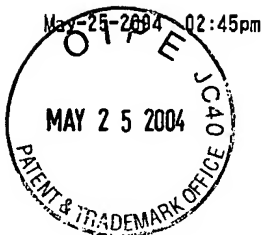
Respectfully submitted,

  
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**Docket No.:** NEYM 20.501 (100806-00216)

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U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/616,068

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IMPROVED BY REQUANTIZATION OF A PREDETERMINED SUBBIT PLANE**

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